

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated August 11, 2008, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 11, 2008. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 61-64 are objected to as having improper numbering of claims. Accordingly, the second claim 61, which the Examiner has regarded as claim 61B, has been cancelled and new claim 80 has been added in its place. The first claim 64, which the Examiner has regarded as claim 64A, has been cancelled and new claim 81 has been added in its place. Applicants sincerely apologize for the inconvenience this claim misnumbering has caused to the Examiner.

The claims stand restricted under 37 CFR 1.499 as follows:

Group I, claims 1-31 are drawn to a seismic survey system for use in water.

Group II, claims 32-57 are drawn to a method of positioning a source array in tow behind a vessel.

Group III, claims 58-61A, 61B, 62, 64A are drawn to a system for changing the position of a source array towed by a vessel in a body of water.

Group IV, claims 63, 64B, 65-79 are drawn to a seismic survey system using a distance rope and winch.

The Examiner takes the position that Groups I-IV do not fall within one allowable combination of categories of inventions under PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2. In particular, the Examiner states that Applicants have multiple apparatus groups and therefore do not have one of the allowable combinations of categories of invention. According to the Examiner, Group I relates to a system comprising a source, steerable deflector and a positioning system; Group II relates to a method of positioning a source array; Group III relates to a system for changing position of a source array comprising a deflector, actuator, sensor for indicating position, and controller for providing commands to the actuator; and Group IV relates to a seismic survey system using a distance rope and a winch. The Examiner thus concludes that as these are different systems and methods,

they do not fall within the allowable combination of categories of one apparatus and one method.

In response, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, i.e., claims 1-31, with traverse. Applicants would like to point out that Group I recites "a independently steerable deflector device coupled to the source array, wherein the deflector device controls a position of the source array" and this same limitation is recited in the corresponding method claims in Group II as "independently steering a deflector device coupled to the source array to move the source array to a desired position." Likewise, the limitation "a positioning system to determine the location of the source array" in Group I is recited in the corresponding method claims in Group II as "determining the position of the source array. As such, Group I and Group II have common technical features and involve the same general inventive concept. Group I and II thus fall within the allowable combination of categories of one apparatus and one method. Applicants submit that Group I and Group II can be examined without undue burden to the Examiner and respectfully request that both groups be examined together.

The Examiner further requires Applicants to elect a single species of the following:

- A. The embodiment wherein the deflector device controls the position of the source array that trails the steerable deflector device only.
- B. The embodiment wherein the deflector device controls the position of the source array that is coupled to the front of the steerable deflector device only.
- C. The embodiment wherein the deflector device controls the position of the source array that contains the deflector device only.

In response, Applicants provisionally elect species A for consideration by the Examiner. As such, at least claims 1-2, 5-33 and 36-79 are readable on species A.

Upon election of species A, B or C, Applicants are required to elect a single species of the following:

- a. The embodiment wherein the desired position is the same position as in a previous survey only.
- b. The embodiment wherein the desired position is a set distance from an edge of a previous survey only.

In response, Applicants provisionally elect species a for consideration by the Examiner. As such, at least claims 1-9, 12-38, 41-66 and 69-79 are readable on species a.

Upon election of species a or b, Applicants are required to elect a single species of the following:

i. The embodiment wherein the one or more wings are in a generally vertical arrangement.

ii. The embodiment wherein the one or more wings are in a generally vertical arrangement.

In response, Applicants provisionally elect species i for consideration by the Examiner. As such, at least claims 1-16 and 18-79 are readable on species i.

Upon election of species i or ii, Applicants are required to elect a single species of the following:

AA. The embodiment wherein the acoustic transducer and receiver are pointed in a given direction.

BB. The embodiment wherein the acoustic transducer and receiver sweeps in many directions.

In response, Applicants provisionally elect species AA for consideration by the Examiner. As such, at least claims 1-30, 32-56, 58-78 are readable on species AA.

Withdrawal of the restriction is respectfully requested. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

/Ari Pramudji/ Date: September 11, 2008

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